

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 01904 252359Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 EB-07 DHA-02 IGA-02 SCS-05 HEW-06 AGRE-00
DODE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /070 W
-----260012Z 046537 /63

O R 252331Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5062
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 1904

DEPT FOR OFDA, AID, ARA/CAR; GENEVA PASS UNDRO; OTTAWA PASS TO CIDA

EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: EAID, SWEL, HA
SUBJECT: DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) STATE 119936, (B) STATE 113157, (C) PORT AU PRINCE 1879

1. SUMMARY: APPRECIATE OFDA OFFER OF ASSISTANCE. ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE MOST AREAS OF ASSISTANCE ARE ADEQUATELY COVERED FOR TIME BEING, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED URGENT NEED FOR FUNDS FOR AIR SHIPMENT OF SORGHUM SEEDS AND FOR TOOLS WHICH REQUIRES IMMEDIATE FUNDING. AMBASSADOR ACCORDINGLY DECLARES DISASTER FOR PURPOSES OF AID HANDBOOK 8, FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE. DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN COORDINATING AIR SHIPMENT OF SEEDS URGENTLY SOUGHT. END SUMMARY.

2. MISSION APPRECIATES CONTINUED WASHINGTON CONCERN AND OFFERS OF ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE. THESE CONCERNS AND OFFERS OF SUPPORT WERE DISCUSSED WITH HIGH LEVEL GOH OFFICIALS AT MOST RECENT CARD MEETING MAY 25.

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3. CONCERNING FINANCING OF INLAND TRANSPORTATION, WE ARE NOT EXPERIENCING ANY SERIOUS IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS AND CARD HAS BUDGET OF 50,000 DOLLARS PER MONTH EARMARKED FOR THIS PURPOSE. SINCE INLAND TRANSPORTATION IS BASIC RESPONSIBILITY OF RECEIVING GOVERNMENT AND SINCE THEY HAVE PROVIDED FOR IT IN CARD BUDGET, WE DO NOT CONSIDER IF ADVISABLE TO OFFER, AT THIS TIME, TO COVER THESE COSTS.

MATTER WILL BE FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY U.S. MISSION AND
UNEXPECTED PROBLEMS WILL BE REPORTED.

4. A. TOO LATE TO IMPORT ADDITIONAL SEEDS FOR THIS
PLANTING SEASON EXCEPT FOR SORGHUM. CWS PURCHASED AND
AIRLIFTED 55,000 POUNDS (25 METRIC TONS) OF BEAN, CORN,
AND SORGHUM SEEDS FROM HOUSTON WHICH ARRIVED MAY 21.
MOST OF THESE BEING DISTRIBUTED ON LA GONAVE.

B. CWS HAS JUST AGREED TO LOCATE AND ORDER FOR UN
AGENCIES AND CIDA APPROXIMATELY 55,000 DOLLARS WORTH OF
SORGHUM SEEDS FOR USE PRIMARILY IN THE NORTHWEST, THE
OTHER PRINCIPAL SEED-SHORT AREA OF HAITI. SEEDS ARE
URGENTLY NEEDED TO ENSURE PLANTING WITHIN FIRST HALF OF
JUNE, EXPECTED END OF CURRENT WET SEASON. COOPERATIVE
BUYING ARRANGEMENT CONTINGENT ON U.S. AIRSHIPMENT,
WHICH WE HAD UNDERSTOOD FROM REF B COULD BE PROVIDED
FREE OF CHARGE ON C-5AS. WE NOW UNDERSTAND DOD WILL
PROVIDE C-5A FLIGHTS ONLY ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS SINCE
IT IS PLANNING TO SHIP GENERATORS OUT BY BARGE.
ACCORDINGLY, WE REQUIRE FUNDING TO AIRSHIP SEEDS BY
CHEAPEST MEANS AVAILABLE TO ASSURE ARRIVAL BY EARLY
JUNE. CWS NEW YORK OFFICE SHOULD BE CONTACTED FOR
LATEST INFORMATION ON AVAILABILITY OF SEEDS.

5. CONCERNING OFFER BY OFDA OF TEMPORARY STORAGE
FACILITIES, GOH STATED THAT REGIE DU TABAC WAREHOUSES
CAN BE USED. THIS, COMBINED WITH OTHER STORAGE FACILITIES,
CONSIDERED ADEQUATE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. SECURITY OF
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COMMODITIES IS A CONCERN AND IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER
PLASTIC TARPAULIN MATERIALS WOULD BE SUITABLE.

6. CONCERNING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, CARD HAS SERVICES OF
MILITARY OFFICER WHO IS LOGISTICAL EXPERT AND MISSION
BELIEVES THAT ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED BY VOLAG FIELD PERSONNEL,
HACHO, US MISSION AND OTHER DONORS ARE ADEQUATE SINCE THESE
INDIVIDUALS ARE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH CONDITIONS PARTICULARLY
APPLICABLE TO HAITI. ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN HIGHLY COOPERATIVE
EFFORT, AND DOUBTFUL THAT ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE WOULD BE
BENEFICIAL.

7. MISSION HAS OFFICIAL REQUEST FROM HACHO AND CWS FOR
FUNDS FOR LOCAL PURCHASE OF HAND TOOLS VALUED AT
17,647 DOLLARS TO PERMIT INCREASED FOOD FOR WORK ACTIVITY
AND FOR 16,040 DOLLARS TO COVER OTHER RELATED ADDITIONAL
COSTS OF FFW PROJECTS.

8. THE AMBASSADOR HAS DETERMINED THAT, FOR THE PURPOSES OF

AID HANDBOOK 8, FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE, A LIMITED
DISASTER SITUATION EXISTS IN HAITI. IT IS PROPOSED THAT
OFDA FUNDS BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR AIRLIFT OF 55,000 DOLLARS
WORTH OF SEEDS REFERRED TO PARA 4B THIS MESSAGE.

9. CONCERNING HAND TOOLS. MISSION INTENDS MAKE
17,647 DOLLARS AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY FROM AMBASSADOR'S
DISASTER RELIEF FUND FOR LOCAL PURCHASE. ADDITIONAL
16,040 DOLLARS REFERRED TO PARA 7 THIS MESSAGE UNDER
FURTHER REVIEW, BUT VERY LIKELY ALL OR MOST SHOULD BE
FINANCED WITH OFDA FUNDS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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